



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Subject Panhandling With A Machete, 500 State Street**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – April 3, 2013**

Trevor Ian Ruggles, age 23, a transient originally from Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, was cited for aggressive panhandling and other related charges after he was observed by a Police Department employee displaying a machete while rudely asking passersby for money on 500 State Street.

On April 1, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., SBPD Officers responded to the 500 block of State Street on a call of a subject displaying a machete. Upon arrival they contacted Ruggles on the west sidewalk there. Attached to his backpack at the time was an approximately 22-inch sheathed machete.

At the time of the call an SBPD Community Services Liaison, a civilian employee, observed Ruggles tossing his machete into the air while stating to passersby, "Give me your (expletive) money." Several pedestrians appeared startled and frightened by this behavior and walked hurriedly away from Ruggles after he confronted them. It did not appear that any of the passersby were overtly threatened with the machete; however none of them remained at the scene to be contacted by officers. Ruggles sheathed his machete when he saw the first police car arrive on scene.

The Community Services Liaison affected a citizen's arrest of Ruggles for the Santa Barbara Municipal Code violations of aggressive panhandling and carrying a knife in plain view with a blade in excess of 3 inches. These offenses are normally infractions but at the discretion of the Santa Barbara City Attorney's Office may be filed as misdemeanors. Ruggles was issued a citation and his machete was seized as evidence. Ruggles was also found to have an outstanding, non-extraditable, \$5,000.00 misdemeanor warrant for a Santa Monica Municipal Code Violation; he was also issued a notice to appear in court in Los Angeles County for that warrant.

**Sergeant Riley L. Harwood, SB Police Department, Community & Media Relations / PIO**

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